

**Mull'n it over** with Bonnie Mullen

# The Galbraith's 1846 log home

St. Patrick's Day 2003 marked a quarter of a century since Gordon and Christine Galbraith moved into their 1846 log home on the Third Sideroad in Campbellville.

Originally built near Ennotville, between Guelph and Fergus, this log house had been covered with stucco. Since it had fallen into disrepair, its new owners in 1965 threatened to burn it down. Lynn and Amy Baker offered to move it to their woodlot near Campbellville. Painstakingly, it was dismantled and each log was numbered. Built of hand-hewn rock elm logs, it was a particularly large log structure for the era, measuring 40 X 25 feet. With two double hung windows, six over six, flanking each side of the original front door, sidelights, and a transom and a gothic window centred in the roofline over the door, the log house was re-constructed on a block foundation. It stood proud again on the wooded 13-acre property looking as though it had always been there. Over the next 12 years, there were four owners before the Galbraiths took possession.

Varnished on the interior, the exposed logs, some the full 40 feet in length, are separated by wide bands of chinking. Because the logs continue to expand and shrink over time, the chinking has to be repaired. Evidence of previous repair jobs using newspaper has been found, but now caulking and

Permachink are used. Overhead 25 foot-lengths of log support the upper floor. The floors are wide tongue and groove pine planks. The brick fireplace was added using a huge beam from the original site. Affixed to the fireplace are the crane, pots and andirons all original to the house.

"We came from a newly built subdivision house in Georgetown," Christine explains. "You have to think long and hard about living like this. We don't have a lot of closet space, or a Jacuzzi or central air. There are compromises to be made for a house of this age. Nothing is straight and the furniture has to be leveled. It took a year for me to get the feel of it and to know what I wanted to do here. But it is the ultimate place for us - with trees all around, surrounded by nature and the deer walk through our yard."

It is a challenge to put modern amenities into a vintage log structure. The bathrooms, kitchen and laundry room are tucked into the southeast corner on all three floors. The wiring for the 200-amp service runs through the chinking between the logs. When the new kitchen was added, careful planning went into making it efficient and compatible with the house. Gord carefully crafted the cabinets himself. Ductwork would have been intrusive, so the house is heated with electric baseboard heaters and a woodstove.

"The logs hold the heat. There

is just something about a log house that radiates warmth," Gord says. "With the shade of the trees, it stays cool in summer too. When we re-roofed with hand-split B.C. cedar shakes, we felt we finally gave the house the roof it deserved."

Widely known as purveyors of fine pottery, the Galbraith's took over the pottery shop started by the previous owner in a building constructed from beams and logs left over from the house re-contruction.

Chris explains: "I have always collected pottery, and I came from a family of artists, so I was used to handmade things. I wasn't sure I wanted to do this, but Mrs. Perry convinced me. So we moved here in March and started the business in April. I went around and found people who made things I liked and just got going."

Over the years, the 1846 Log House Craft Gallery has established a loyal following that finds its way down the quiet little country road to the shop that carries the work of over 20 Ontario potters, glass blowers, blacksmiths, and other artists and artisans.

In celebration of its 150th birthday, the Galbraiths hung a banner on the house and threw a party. This is truly a loved and cared-for home. Having given up the trappings of a suburban lifestyle, they furnished their home with things they love like primitive antiques, braided rugs, artwork, pottery and glass. In deference to Mark Twain, they have earned the approval of the house and are living in the peace and joy of its benediction.



## Local teenage riders win awards

BY KAREN DALLIMORE

The Ontario Equestrian Federation (OEF) recently acknowledged the achievements of two local young riders.

Alexandra Clark of Campbellville was awarded the James Worrall Athlete Development Award, which includes a grant of \$500 towards competition expenses for 2003. Last year, Alexandra was the 2002 Canadian National Champion Half Arabian Working Hunter Junior to Ride, and she placed third overall in the Canadian National Hunt Seat Equitation Over Fences. She has also achieved top-ten status in the U.S. National Half Arabian Hunter and Jumper divisions. Alexandra is a Grade 9 student at Milton District High School.

Lia Dal Bello of Milton was one of five recipients of a \$1000 Youth Bursary awarded by the OEF. Recipients of the prestigious award are chosen based on their achievements, future goals and letters of recommendation from their coaches. The bursary will help this deserving competitor achieve her equestrian objectives for the season.

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## Glenda's Kitchen Kapers

BY GLENDA BENTON

Despite a cool spring it looks like we will have a good crop of strawberries. Both my old patch and the new one that I set out last summer are in full bloom. This is a recipe that I plan to make again for one of our family Tuesday dinners. Our kids enjoy an invitation to dinner on a working day, and Tuesday has become a tradition. John is allergic to bananas, but Mom can still spoil him and make a small dish without the bananas.

**Strawberry Banana Dessert**

3 medium firm bananas, sliced  
1 prepared angel food cake (16 ounces) cut into 1 inch cubes  
1 pint fresh strawberries, halved  
1 package (6 ounce) sugar-free strawberry gelatin  
2 cups boiling water  
1 1/2 cups cold water  
1 carton (8 ounces) reduced-fat whipped topping, thawed

- Layer banana slices and cake cubes in a 13-inch by 9-inch dish coated with nonstick cooking spray.

Place strawberries over cake and press down gently. In a bowl, dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Stir in cold water. Pour over strawberries. Refrigerate for 3 hours or until set. Frost with whipped topping.

*I've been asked for this recipe several times, and so I thought maybe our readers would like it.*

**Mildred's Squares**

1 cup all-purpose flour  
1/4 cup brown sugar  
1/2 cup butter or margarine

- Cream butter and sugar. Add flour and mix well. Pat evenly into an 8-inch square cake pan. Spread lightly with a jam of your choice.
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/4 cups brown sugar
- 1/2 cup coconut
- 1/2 cup walnuts
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 3 tablespoon flour
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Mix well and pour over base. Bake at 325° or 350° degrees for 25 or 30 minutes. Chill well.

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